

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 CIEP-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SSO-00

EURE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 FEA-02 DRC-01 /161 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7478

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR ETRD ENRG EEC XH GR EAID

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, SEPT 17:

A SHORT BUT USEFUL SESSION

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REF: EC BRUSSELS 7122

1. SUMMARY: IN ONE OF THE SHORTEST SESSIONS ON RECORD, THE EC COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS) QUICKLY APPROVED, WITH ONLY MINOR CHANGES, A RESOLUTION ON A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY; DEFERRED, BECAUSE OF GERMAN OBJECTIONS, A DECISION ON A TOKEN CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND FOR MSA'S; URGED THE EC COMMISSION TO ACCELERATE ITS WORK ON EXTENDING THE COMMON COMMERCIAL POLICY TOWARD STATE TRADING COUNTRIES; AND ADOPTED A DECLARATION ON EC-GREEK ASSOCIATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ENERGY POLICY: THE COUNCIL WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES PRESIDING, REACHED QUICK ACCORD ON A RESOLUTION URGING THE ADOPTION OF A COMMUNITY ENERGY STRATEGY. THE BRITISH DELEGATION, LED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY JAMES CALLAGHAN, WITHDREW ITS PREVIOUS OBJECTION TO THE COMMISSION DRAFT AND APPROVED THE TEXT OF A RESOLUTION (TO BE SENT SEPTEL) WITH ONLY ONE CHANGE. WHILE MINISTER FOR TRADE PETER SHORE, THE MAN WHOM SOME FELT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEALY, SAT BY, CALLAGHAN PUSHED FOR AND QUICKLY WON A MODIFICATION DESCRIBED AS "NON-SUBSTANTIAL" IN THE DECLARATION AND THEN GAVE HIS ASSEST TO THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.

3. EC-GREEK ASSOCIATION: THE COUNCIL ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION CONCERNING EC-GREECE ASSOCIATION. BEGIN TEXT (INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION):

THE COUNCIL, IN EXAMINING THE SITUATION CONCERNING THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND GREECE, EXPRESSED ITS PROFOUND SATISFACTION AT SEEING THERE THE REAPPEARANCE OF THE IDEAS WHICH INSPIRED THE NEGOTIATORS OF THE ATHENS AGREEMENT. IT NOTED IN THE MOST DISTINCT MANNER ITS DETERMINATION TO RESUME, WITHOUT DELAY, THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE ASSOCIATION, THUS PROMOTING THE ULTIMATE ACCESSION OF GREECE TO THE COMMUNITY. IT IS PLEASED TO CONFIRM THAT IN THESE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES, THE WAY IS ONCE AGAIN OPEN FOR A RETURN TO THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF ASSOCIATION AND, MORE GENERALLY, THE FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THAT ASSOCIATION.

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THE COUNCIL THEREFORE DECLARED ITSELF READY AND WILLING TO MEET AT ANY TIME WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT IN AN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL WHICH WILL BE CONVENED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT THE COUNCIL IS DETERMINED TO EXAMINE, IN AN OPEN AND POSITIVE MANNER, QUESTIONS

REGARDING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH RESULT FROM THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE LAST SEVEN INTERVENING YEARS IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND JURIDICAL AREAS PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. IT HAS, AS A CONSEQUENCE, DECIDED IMMEDIATELY TO UNDERTAKE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS AN INVENTORY OF THE PROBLEMS THUS POSED AND SEEK WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY SOLUTIONS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES. END TEXT.

4. ASSISTANCE FOR MSA'S: THE COUNCIL DID NOT APPROVE A COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR AN "EARNEST PAYMENT" (REPORTEDLY \$156 MILLION) FROM THE COMMUNITY'S 1974 BUDGET FOR THE MSA'S. THIS TOKEN PAYMENT, WHICH WAS TO GO BOTH DIRECTLY TO THE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES AND VIA THE UN, MET WITH A GERMAN OBJECTION AND FINAL DECISION IS TO BE TAKEN AT THE COUNCIL OF DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 24. THE BRITISH AND DUTCH DELEGATIONS, WHO FAVORED THE IMMEDIATE DISBURSEMENT OF THESE FUNDS, WERE UPSET AT WHAT THEY REGARDED AS UNNECESSARY FOOTDRAGGING. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL SESSION, SAUVAGNARGUES NOTED THAT THE COMMUNITY CONTINUED TO HOPE THAT CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BEFORTHCOMING FROM OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES (HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE UNITED STATES) PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER 24 MEETING. SAUVAGNARGUES ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT "SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS" HAD ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED FROM OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES BUT HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

5. RELATIONS WITH STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES: THE COUNCIL REQUESTED THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) TO ACCELERATE THEIR EFFORTS AT EXTENDING THE COMMON COMMERCIAL POLICY TO STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES. THE COUNCIL HOPES TO TAKE THIS MATTER UP AGAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT ITS NEXT SESSION AND IN PARTICULAR TO EXAMINE A PROPOSED COMMISSION MANDATE FOR NEGOTIATING.

6. THE COUNCIL, AS EXPECTED, (SEE EC BRUSSELS 7075) FORMALLY APPROVED THE NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR THE GLOBAL MEDITERRANEAN POLICY.

7. COMMENT: THIS SESSION CONTRASTED MARKEDLY WITH THE SEPTEMBER 16 MEETING OF FINANCE MINISTERS (SEE EC BRUSSELS 7122), THE COUNCIL CONDUCTED ITS BUSINESS QUICKLY AND THE PRESIDENT EVOKED FAVORABLE COMMENTS FROM PERMANENT DELEGATION SOURCES FOR HIS SMOOTH HANDLING OF THE POST-COUNCIL PRESS CONFERENCE.

8. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE SAUVAGNARGUES COMMENTED THAT

FRANCE INTENDED TO WAIT UNTIL THE ECG FINISHED ITS WORK
BEFORE EXAMING THE QUESTION OF MEMBERSHIP. WHEN A
JOURNALIST ASKED HIM ABOUT ONE OF THE DAY'S "HOT TIPS" IN
BRUSSELS, NAMELY THAT J. J. SERVAN-SCHREIBER WOULD BE
NOMINATED TO REPLACE COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI,SAUVAGNARGUES
AND THE OTHER PEOPLE ON THE DIAS, CHUCKLED, AND HE SAID THAT
THIS WAS NEWS TO HIM.GREENWALD

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